

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

Radio Address – Budget and HSC

Friday, May 4, 2007

This is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Back in February, I told the people of Michigan that to move our economy forward and create the jobs we need for ourselves and our children, we have to resolve our budget crisis and set our foot on solid fiscal ground. I offered a solution to Michigan's budget crisis that included spending cuts, government reforms, and new revenues, but the Legislature has not enacted that solution or any other, and the crisis continues to worsen.

There is no question that we must resolve this budget crisis with a comprehensive solution to keep our plan for economic revitalization moving forward. And we continue to meet with the Legislature on finding those solutions. But it must happen quickly and, in the meantime, we are not going to fall back economically. So this week, I joined Hemlock Semiconductor to announce that they will invest up to \$1 billion in Michigan to create 500 Michigan jobs.

Hemlock Semiconductor is the world's leading producer of a product called polycrystalline silicon, which is used in solar panels that turn sunlight into electricity. Their expanded facilities would increase production by 90 percent, allowing for enormous growth in the alternative energy industry.

Michigan is already home to open lands and an agricultural economy that positions us to be a leader in alternative energy sources like wind-powered turbines and ethanol and biodiesel. Now, with companies like Hemlock Semiconductor and United Solar Ovonic, which produces photovoltaic solar panels, we are positioned to lead the country and the world in using solar power as a renewable source of energy as well.

These companies are growing in Michigan because they are confident our state is the right place for them to thrive. They're taking advantage of our world-class science and engineering talent, and they're investing in Michigan's future.

Even in the face of a budget crisis, it is critical that we, as a state, continue to invest in our future as well. We have a choice – we can invest in the things that can pull our state out of its economic slump, or we can disinvest and dive into a downward spiral.

It's the same choice we've had since February, but if the Legislature does not act by June 1, we will be forced, due to our constitutional requirement to have a balanced budget, to make deep cuts to schools and Medicaid THIS YEAR.

I am prepared to consider any and all options that will allow us to preserve the things that are most critical for Michigan citizens and for our economic future. But I need the Legislature to act as a partner in finding a solution to this crisis.

As companies like Hemlock Semiconductor continue to invest in Michigan's future, I'll continue to meet nonstop with Michigan's legislative leaders to hammer out a pragmatic solution this month to our budget crisis so that we can move forward.

Thank you for listening.